

QA-55
Ripley
Church Hill
Private

1805

Ripley has a long and well-documented history, and survives today as one of the most carefully preserved early farms in the county. The land has been owned and maintained as a working farm by the same family since the late 17th century, and the house and associated outbuildings together form perhaps the most complete early 19th century farmstead in the county. The house was constructed in 1805, with two later additions in 1822 and 1868. The outbuildings include a brick dairy, a brick meathouse, and a post-and-plank school building to the rear of the house, a brick slave quarter in the side yard and a small brick cistern or spring house to the south of the house.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ripley

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West side of Md. Route 213 1½ miles north of Church Hill

CITY, TOWN

Church HillX VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Madison B. Bordley, Jr.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21623**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County CourthouseLiber #: TSP 24Folio #: 288

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ripley is located on the west side of Maryland Route 213 about 1½ miles north of Church Hill. A long driveway lined with cedar trees leads from the main road down to the house. The main house is sited on level ground, facing north up the driveway. The ground drops away to the rear, and a small man-made pond is visible in a hollow to the south. There are several small outbuildings to the rear, and a brick slave quarter to the northeast. A tenant house and several other outbuildings are located to the north. A family graveyard is located on the north side of the driveway, several hundred feet to the east of the main house.

The earliest section of the present house was built in 1805, and is believed to be the third house built at Ripley. Two later additions were made in 1822 and in 1868.

The early house is brick, two-and-one-half stories high, three bays wide, and one room deep. It has a plain gable roof with a single, flush chimney at each end, and porches on both facades.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

The brickwork on the front facade is laid in Flemish bond above a plain watertable and a three-course bond foundation. The foundation and watertable are identical on the rear facade, but the rest of the wall has been covered with stucco and is not visible. The east gable brickwork is also similar, but the watertable is terminated at the corners, and does not extend across the gable. The west gable is covered by the later addition. Traces of early painted and stenciled joints are visible on the first floor of the front facade where the wall is protected by the porch. During repairs to the west chimney following Hurricane Hazel, a brick dated 1805 was found. This coincided with the date assigned to the house by family tradition, and Mr. Bordley used the brick to replace a bad brick in the front facade, where it is now clearly visible.

The front entrance is located in the center bay of the north facade, flanked on each side by a nine-over-six window. There are three nine-over-six windows on the second floor and three gable roof two-over-two dormers on the roof. Three six-light cellar windows remain below the porch, with horizontal wooden bars set into the mortar joints. The entrance door has a handsome

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

surround that consists of reeded pilasters with molded capitals on either side of the opening surmounted by ornate brackets which support a pediment with an ornate cornice dominated by wall-of-troy dentils. The jambs and soffit are paneled, and the original raised panel door remains in place below a handsome fan-light transom. Evidence remains of at least two early porches. Scars in the brickwork immediately to either side of the door suggest that the door was originally protected by a small entrance porch with built-in benches. The receiving holes are visible where the slanted backboards of the seats were let into the brick wall of the house. About six feet to either side of the door are ghosts of a pair of porch columns which must have replaced the original porch. The painted and stenciled joints pass behind the columns, so they are clearly not original. This second porch was apparently torn off and replaced by the present porch.

The cornice on this facade dates to the Victorian period, and was probably installed in 1868. It consists of a box cornice with a simple crown mold supported by scrolled brackets. This same cornice is carried

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

across the front of the west wing, the front porch, and both gables.

A bulkhead entrance to the cellar is located in the north bay of the east gable, a six-light cellar window is located in the south bay. There are two nine-over-six windows flanking the chimney on the first and second floor, and two four-light windows in the upper gable. The Flemish bond brickwork on this gable only extends up to the second floor eaves. Above this point it is three-course bond.

The rear facade is similar to the front, with a central door with a crossetted surround flanked by nine-over-six windows. An original two story porch extends the full length of the house on this facade, however, and the second floor fenestration is somewhat different. There are three nine-over-six windows, but the center window is set lower to allow for the stair landing inside. An original door to the left of the north window allows access to the second floor porch. There is a ballustrade on the upper porch with a molded railing and square section ballusters. The posts have chamfered edges with lambs tongue stops. A pair of six light cellar windows are

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

located in the east and west bay below the porch.

On the first floor, the interior is laid out with a central stair hall flanked by a single parlour on each side. The stair rises on the west wall to a landing at the rear. It has an open string carriage, with turned newels, square ballusters, and a molded railing. A half-railing is applied to the plastered wall, and is carried up to the second floor. The stair-ends are decorated with brackets, and the space below the carriage is finished with raised paneling.

The east parlour is the more formal room on this floor, with a handsome Federal mantel and ornate woodwork. The mantel is essentially Adamesque, with pairs of thin reeded columns on either side of the opening surmounted by side blocks which support a heavily molded shelf. A large block is located in the center of the fascia below the shelf. This block has a recessed oval panel in the center, while the side blocks have reeded edges with medallions on the front face. Floral swags are applied to the fascia on either side of the center block. The molded shelf is dominated by a band of drilled carving and a finely reeded fascia. The inner edge of the surround

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

is finished with a finely carved chain molding. This same motif is used along the lower edge of the chair-rail, below a reeded fascia. Heavy molded baseboard encircles the room. The window openings in this room are recessed, and have paneled soffits and interior shutters, as well as raised panels below the sill. The window and door surrounds are crossetted, and the door opening between the hall and the north room has paneled jambs and soffit.

The west room is more reserved than the east room. The mantel has paneled pilasters that support paneled sideblocks and a shelf with a heavy complex molding. A large panel in the center of the fascia is reeded. There is an original closet to the left of the fireplace, and a door to the wing in the alcove to the right. The window recesses do not extend below the sill, but the soffit is paneled and the jambs are fitted with paneled interior shutters. The chairrail and baseboard are molded but are not carved or reeded.

The second floor plan is a modified version of the first floor, with an unheated chamber at the north end of the hall. The east room is completely original except for a small closet in the southwest corner.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

The mantel has reeded pilasters, with small sideblocks and a large center block supporting a molded shelf that breaks forward above the sideblocks. The sideblocks are decorated with fanciful reeded heart shaped recesses. A large oval panel with reeding embellishes the center panel, and the molding below the shelf is dominated by a fancy drilled band.

In the north room, there is a closet to the right of the fireplace and a door to the wing to the left. An original door on the south wall leads to the second story of the rear porch.

The unheated chamber at the north end of the hall is clearly original, but has been converted into a modern bathroom. The original molded architraves and paneled door remain in place, but all of the trim is gone.

The third floor is unfinished and has apparently always served as storage rather than living space. It is divided into two rooms by a beaded board partition constructed with machine nails. The dormer windows are clearly cut in, and evidence suggests the roof may have been reworked. It is of common rafter construction, 38 degrees in pitch, with the rafters

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

set on a flat false plate and half-lapped and pegged at the ridge. The collar beams are half-dovetailed and nailed with early machine nails. These do not appear to be the hand-headed machine nails which one might expect to find in an 1805 context, and are one reason for suggesting that the roof may have undergone some work. Further evidence of this may be found in the presence of wrought nails, some randomly located in the rafters, while others are visible in the roof nailers. Some nailers have wrought nail tips showing, while only the heads are visible on others. This suggests that they have been reused, some being replaced right side up and others upside down.

The cellar is divided into two rooms by a brick partition below the west wall of the first floor hall. There is an original fireplace in the east room and an arched chimney base in the west room. A large beaded batten door remains in place between the two rooms. It is hung on wrought strap hinges and retains an early wooden lock with the original key. The southeast corner of the west room has been screened off with a partition of wood slats to form a storage area.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.8 DESCRIPTION

The first addition was made to the house in 1822, when a two story brick wing was added to the west gable of the main house. This wing is two bays wide and one room deep. The north facade is laid in five and six-course bond, with a pair of six-light windows on each floor. The two first floor windows were originally larger, stretching down almost to floor level. According to the present owner, these were reduced to their present size in 1868. The west gable wall is laid in five to seven-course bond. A flush chimney rises at the center of this wall, but all evidence of the original fireplaces has disappeared. A single six-over-six window is located to the right of the chimney on each floor. The cornice on the north facade is identical to the bracketed cornice on the front of the main house. It returns at the gables, and a box cornice with a crown mold and bed mold is carried up the gable eaves. According to Mr. Bordley, there was at one time a kitchen addition that projected from the west gable wall of this wing, but no trace remains.

A large two story frame addition, believed to have been built in 1868, projects from the rear (south)

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.9 DESCRIPTION

wall of the brick wing. It is four bays long and one room deep, and rests on a high brick foundation. A flush brick stove chimney rises at the center of the south gable wall.

The interior of both additions are relatively plain, and were not examined in detail.

Dairy

Located to the rear of the main house, this small brick building is ten feet square, with a pyramidal roof that overhangs and is supported by cedar posts. It is laid in six-course bond, and has been whitewashed numerous times. The door is located in the center of the wall facing the rear wing, and small windows with board shutters are located in the center of each side wall. The interior is plastered, but otherwise lacking in detail. The door is constructed of beaded vertical boards nailed to beveled battens with machine nails, and is hung on late butt hinges. Six-light windows remain in place, covered from the outside by the shutters. The roof pitch is 35 degrees; the rafters rest on 4 x 4 plates supported by the cedar posts. The butt ends are cut off with a vertical

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.10 DESCRIPTION

mitre, and a plain fascia board is nailed across the rafter ends. Otherwise the eaves are left exposed.

Meathouse

This brick building is located directly to the southwest of the rear addition. It is 13 feet square, with a gable roof oriented on a north-south axis. The north gable wall has been removed and replaced with a frame wall covered with vertical board-and-batten siding. The remaining original walls are laid in five-course bond, and have been heavily whitewashed. The door is located in the center of the east facade. The only other opening is a diamond shaped ventilation hole formed in the south gable by omitting four header bricks. An interesting detail of this building is the original box cornice on the east wall. The beaded fascia board has round holes cut in it to allow pigeons to nest in the cornice.

Inside, five heavy pit sawn and hewn joists are stretched between the side wall plates. These support flat false plates, which support the rafter pairs. These are set at a 44 degree pitch, and are half-lapped

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.11 DESCRIPTION

and pegged at the ridge. The collar beams are half-lapped and nailed with machine nails. The door is constructed of plain vertical boards nailed to beaded battens. A large wood lock remains in place on the inner face of the door.

Schoolhouse

To the rear of the house, and situated between the dairy and the meathouse, is a small one story building which is traditionally known as the schoolhouse. Although the building clearly served in that capacity for some time, it may have been intended originally to serve as an office or a slave quarter. Regardless of past functions, this is a most interesting building. It is 15 feet long and 13 feet wide, and on casual observation appears to be of frame construction, covered with wood shingles and numerous coats of whitewash. There is an exterior brick chimney on the east gable wall, and with the steeply pitched gable roof, it is reminiscent of the small kitchens and slave quarters of Tidewater Virginia.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.12. DESCRIPTION

A closer examination of the framing system, however, reveals that this building is constructed of horizontal log planks mortised into vertical corner posts. The corner posts are exposed on the interior, and sections of planks and posts are visible from the exterior where the shingle covering has deteriorated. There is no evidence of intermediate posts, however, and it is not clear how the window and door openings are treated. Short posts are visible on either side of the chimney on the east wall, and the horizontal planks are mortised into the posts, which are about four feet high. Above this point, the planks run continuous across the gable, and the chimney is completely outside the wall.

The door is located in the center of the north facade, with a six-over-six window in the center of both the south facade and the west gable. A small opening in the upper west gable has no sash, but is covered by a battened wood shutter. The original box cornice with a beaded fascia board remains intact, as do the beaded corner boards and the beaded and tapered rakeboards. The roof is corrugated tin.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.13 DESCRIPTION

The interior consists of a single plastered room with a fireplace on the center of the east gable wall and a steep ladder-stair in the southwest corner leading to an unfinished loft. The fireplace has been blocked and fitted for a small cast iron wood stove, which remains in place. There is a plain mantel shelf supported by brackets, otherwise the interior is quite plain. The door is made of beaded vertical boards nailed to beaded battens with wrought nails. It is hung on butt hinges, but scars remain from an earlier set of similar butt hinges. The south window retains an early wood shutter, also made of beaded boards. The plaster lathing is machine sawn, and is nailed with machine nails.

The loft has a plank floor, but is otherwise unfinished. The window opening in the west gable is covered by a wood shutter with beaded battens and wrought nails.

The roof is constructed of machine sawn rafters that rest on a flat false plate. They are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge, and have lightweight collar beams let into the face of each rafter pair and nailed with machine nails. The gable studs are mortise-and-tenoned into the gable top plates and

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.14 DESCRIPTION

are mitred and nailed to the rafters.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-55

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1805, 1822, 1868 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ripley has a long and well-documented history, and survives today as one of the most carefully preserved early farms in the county. The land has been owned and maintained as a working farm by the same family since the late 17th century, and the house and associated outbuildings together form perhaps the most complete early 19th century farmstead in the county. The house was constructed in 1805, with two later additions which are dated through family tradition to 1822 and 1868. The outbuildings include a brick dairy, a brick meathouse, and a post-and-plank school building to the rear of the house, a brick slave quarter in the side yard, and a small brick cistern or spring house to the south of the main house. All of these buildings appear to date to the second quarter of the 19th century. A family graveyard is located along the front driveway, and the approximate sites of two earlier houses

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

have also been identified by the present owner.

The interior of the main house is particularly notable for its fine Federal woodwork, featuring Adamesque mantels, pierced and molded chairrails and baseboard, and a handsome stair. Other details of interest include the evidence of stenciled jointing on the brickwork of the north facade and a grand two story porch that stretches across the south facade.

Among the outbuildings, the school house is of note due to its unusual post-and-plank construction, and the brick cistern is the only recorded example of a structure of this type in the county.

QA-55

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forman, Henry Chandlee. Old Buildings, Gardens, and Furniture of Maryland. Cambridge, Md.: Tidewater Publishers, 1967.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

11/22/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

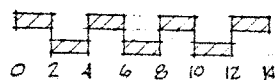
STATE

Maryland 21617

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

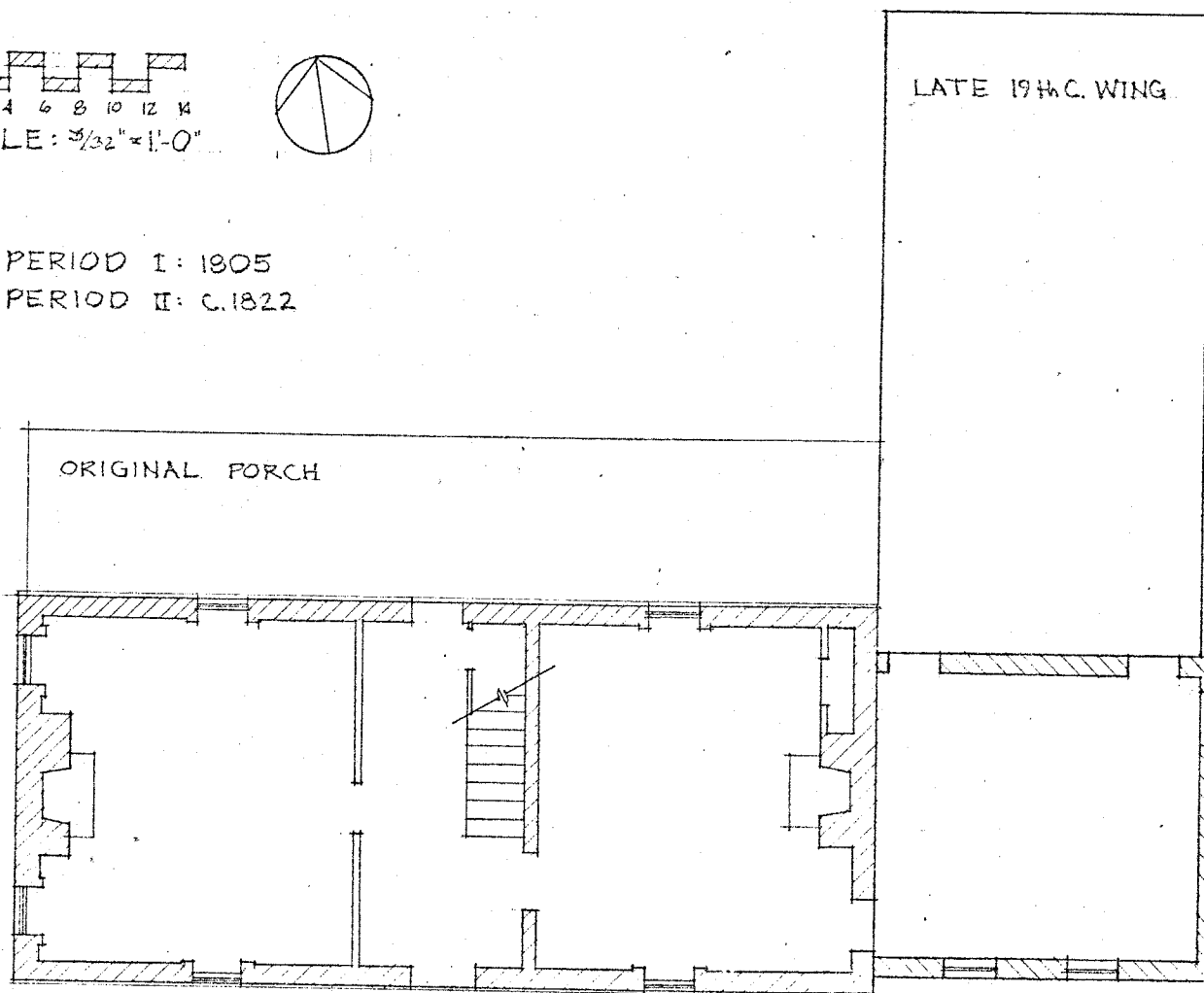
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



SCALE: $\frac{3}{32}$ " = 1'-0"



- PERIOD I: 1805
- PERIOD II: C. 1822



ORLANDO RIDOUT V.

QA-55

RIPLEY
CHURCH HILL, MARYLAND OCTOBER 12, 1978



QA-55

Ripley

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT

